

AQA GCSE Religious Studies: Judaism Practices

Synagogue: Jewish place of worship.

Minyan: a group of 10 adults required for a Jewish religious service.

Menorah: a candle stick holding 7 or 9 candles

Star of David: symbol of Judaism, the shape of King David's shield.

Aron Hakodesh/Ark: The holiest part of the synagogue which contains the Torah scrolls.

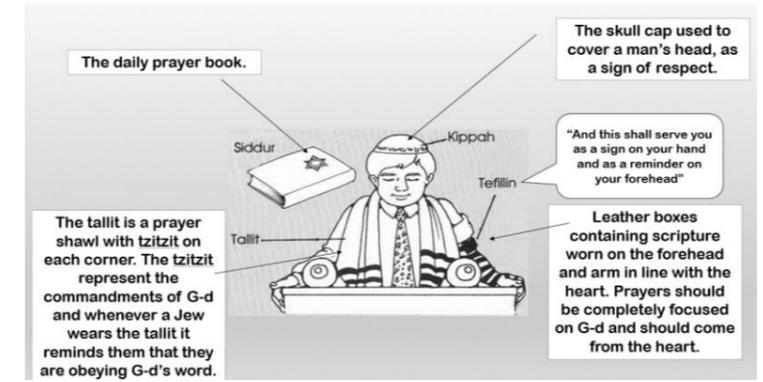
Ner Tamid: eternal light/ a light that is kept burning above the ark

Bimah: A raised platform from where the Torah is read.



| Orthodox | Reform |
|---|---|
| The person leading the service will face the Ark. | Worship is more likely to take place on Shabbat and festivals, not every day and The person leading the service will face the congregation/ |
| The service will be held in Hebrew. | Reform synagogues will use Hebrew and the language of the country they are in |
| Men and women sit separately to worship | Men and women sit together to worship The person leading the service will face the congregation. |
| Orthodox rabbis are male | Women can be Rabbis. |
| Covering your head for worship is a sign of respect to G-d. Men are likely to cover their head using a skull cap called a kippah. | Most men will wear head coverings, some women may also chose to wear a kippah or a hat |
| Women will cover their heads if they are married, often with a hat or scarf. | |

Amidah: central prayer of Jewish worship- the "standing prayer".



Shabbat: the Jewish holy day of the week; starting shortly before sunset on a Friday until night time of Saturday.



| Shabbat at the synagogue | Shabbat at home |
|--|---|
| -The congregation stands when the Ark is opened: a reminder of how the Jews stood at the bottom of Mount Sinai when Moses returned with the 10 Commandments. -Torah passes through the synagogue, many Jews touch it with their Siddur or the tzitzit on their tallit and then touch their lips. In Ezekiel Jews are told G-d's words should be on their lips and sweet like honey. | -Everything is prepared before Shabbat begins. Many types of work are not allowed on Shabbat, so it needs to be done prior to sunset. -Two candles are placed on the table. They represent the commandments to "remember" and "observe" Shabbat. -Two loaves of challah bread. These represent the food provided for Jews whilst they wandered in the wilderness. -Wine or grape juice. Drinking Shabbat wine symbolises joy and celebration |

Worshipping at home

Mezuzah: A mezuzah is a little box which contains scripture and is nailed to the doorframe of a Jewish house. A Jew will touch the mezuzah as a reminder to follow G-d's commandments.

Prayer: Jews are required to pray 3 times a day, for many Jews it would not be possible to go to the synagogue every time. Many women only attend synagogue on Shabbat, so it is important they are able to also worship at home. And G-s omnipresent- everywhere!

Study of scripture: Tenakh- The Written Law- Jewish sacred scriptures. A collection of 24 books. **INCLUDES THE TORAH. Talmud-** The Oral law- a commentary on the Torah by early Rabbis on how to interpret laws for everyday life.

How is a baby welcomed into Judaism?

Brit Milah: ceremony of male circumcision; removal of the foreskin for religious reasons. The formal naming of the baby boy will take place here.

Mohel: a trained circumciser.



Sandek: "Companion of the child".

Brit Bat: daughter's covenant. They might light candles or was the baby's feet, name the baby. They might also name the baby at a Shabbat Torah service at the synagogue.

Redemption of the first born son: Some Orthodox Jews give a small amount of money 31 days he is born to redeem him.

How do Jews celebrate coming of Age?



- Bar Mitzvah:** Ritual for boys at age 13. Son of the Commandment.
- Bat Mitzvah:** Ritual for girls at age 12. Daughter of the Commandment.

| Bar Mitzvah | Bat Mitzvah |
|---|--|
| -It will take place of the first Shabbat after his 13 th , he will read the Torah in the normal synagogue service. -His Father gives thanks to G-d for bringing his son to maturity and declares he is responsible for his own actions -He will have lessons at the synagogue to prepare, especially in helping him understand Hebrew. -He will wear a tallit for the first time. -Sweets are thrown to represent blessings. -There is a celebratory meal in honour of the Bar Mitzvah boy. | -In Reform Judaism a Bat Mitzvah is very similar to Bar Mitzvah. A girl will read from the Torah or may recite the Eishet Chayil in Hebrew. The will also attend synagogue in order to prepare. -In Orthodox Judaism women don't take a lead role in synagogue services, so instead they may have a family meal with small religious gifts. |

How do Jews celebrate a marriage and why?



- Betrothal/ Kiddushin:** the period of time before the wedding/ engagement.
- Ketubah:** Jewish marriage contract. It is a contract of the husband's duties to the wife.
- Chuppah:** Jewish wedding canopy. Symbolises the home the couple will make together.
- The bride circles the groom 7 times:** Symbolises the bride and groom make space for each other every day.
- The groom breaks a glass under his heel:** Shows regret for the destruction of the temple.
- Mazel Toy:** Hebrew phrase meaning "Good Luck"/ "Congratulations".
- Wedding reception - lots of music and dancing:** Twedding dance is called the Hora.

How do Jews mourn the dead?

When a death is announced Jews will make a small tear in their clothes to follow the example of Jacob and as a sign of the grief and sorrow.



"Jacob tore his clothes...and observed mourning for his son" Genesis 37:34)

Burial takes place as ASAP. A simple coffin is used to show equality in death.

Shiva is an intense period of mourning that lasts for 7 days, after the burial.

The same prayer is recited throughout the 12 month mourning period- The Kaddish. It praises G-d and asks for peace.

Mourners leave pebbles at the grave to represent the permanence of memory.

The dietary laws of Judaism.

Dietary laws/ Kashrut: rules that deal with foods permitted to be eaten, food preparation & food combinations. Most strictly followed by Orthodox Jews.

Kosher: permitted food, food that meets the requirements of Jewish law.

This will include certain meat, which has been slaughtered in a specific way. Eg. Beef and chicken.

Trefah: foods which are forbidden, means "torn".

Certain meats are forbidden eg. Pork, shrimp and shellfish

Meat and milk CANNOT be mixed. Some Jews will have two lots of utensils etc.



"You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk"

How do Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?

| Rosh Hashanah: the Jewish New Year | Yom Kippur: the Day of Atonement. |
|---|--|
| Special prayers of forgiveness are said in the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah, as well as acts of charity. <i>To atone/ make up for any wrong doing in order to be judged well by G-d.</i> | 10 Day after Rosh Hashanah. No work is to be done. <i>It is the Sabbath of Sabbaths.</i> |
| The shofar is blown daily in the synagogue in the month before Rosh Hashanah and 100 times on Rosh Hashanah. <i>Wakes Jews up (spiritually) and calls them to repent.</i> | Jews fast for 25 hours. <i>On this days Jews are expected to practice "self denial".</i> |
| Sweet food such as apples and honey are eaten. <i>Desire for a sweet new year.</i> | Jews wear white. <i>A sign of purity.</i> |

How do Jews celebrate Pesach/ Passover? The Jewish festival which remembers the Jewish Exodus (escape) from slavery in Egypt. Seder plate below.

